



## LODI CITY COUNCIL

Carnegie Forum

305 West Pine Street, Lodi

## AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING

Date: November 15, 2005

Time: 7:00 a.m.

For information regarding this agenda please contact:

**Susan J. Blackston**

**City Clerk**

**Telephone: (209) 333-6702**

*NOTE: All staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the Office of the City Clerk and are available for public inspection. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To make a request for disability-related modification or accommodation contact the City Clerk's Office as soon as possible and at least 24 hours prior to the meeting date.*

**A. Roll call**

**B. Regular Calendar**

- B-1 Discussion and potential action regarding the impending exclusive operating contract award to American Medical Response by the County Board of Supervisors for ambulance service throughout San Joaquin County (FD)

**C. Adjournment**

Pursuant to Section 54956.2(a) of the Government Code of the State of California, this agenda was posted at a place freely accessible to the public 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

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Susan J. Blackston  
City Clerk

**\*\*NOTICE:** Pursuant to Government Code §54954.3(a), public comments may be directed to the legislative body concerning any item contained on the agenda for this meeting before (in the case of a Closed Session item) or during consideration of the item.\*\*



## CITY OF LODI COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**AGENDA TITLE:** Discussion and potential action regarding the award of the San Joaquin County ambulance bid to American Medical Response

**MEETING DATE:** November 15, 2005

**PREPARED BY:** Michael E. Pretz, Fire Chief

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That Council discuss and give appropriate direction regarding the proposed award of the San Joaquin County ambulance bid to American Medical Response.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors will be taking action on the ambulance bids at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Due to the accelerated schedule of the RFP process and review of the American Medical Response and Priority One proposals, a special meeting is needed to receive Council direction. Attached you will find a memo reviewing the ambulance bids.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** N/A

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Michael E. Pretz, Fire Chief

MEP/lh

Attachment

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**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Blair King, City Manager



# CITY OF LODI

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Blair King, City Manager

**FROM:** Michael E. Pretz, Fire Chief

**DATE:** November 10, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Ambulance Bid

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As you are aware, the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Agency (SJCEMSA) has released their recommendation for ambulance service throughout the County including the City of Lodi. Of the three proposals submitted, SJCEMSA has determined the AMR proposal should be accepted. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on the recommendation November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The recommendation to award AMR an exclusive operating contract is not without controversy. In fact, the competing providers, Priority One and City of Stockton/Rural-Metro, have filed protests. The nature of these protests range from incomplete/inadequate supporting documentation, conflicts of interest between AMR and the raters, a flawed RFP process, to financial data that simply does not add up. In addition, the City of Stockton is pursuing legal remedies regarding the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) that both the City of Stockton and the City of Lodi are parties to.

After reviewing the RFP process, there are two areas with which the City of Lodi should be concerned. In the course of developing the RFP, fire department staff met with the County's consultants to help design the pre-hospital care system. In public meetings and in written correspondence, the need for a fire department element for the provision of emergency medical care was discussed. There is no denying, the fire departments throughout San Joaquin County are an integral part of the EMS system, a statement agreed to by the consultants. However, when the RFP was released, the fire departments role and contribution to the EMS system was completely ignored. The RFP was written as if the San Joaquin County was a large rural county with no urbanized areas. Every county surrounding San Joaquin County has grappled with this issue and in every case, have developed a sophisticated program in which the citizens are well served. This RFP does not serve the City of Lodi or its citizens well.

The second area of concern is the role of emergency dispatching. The City of Lodi is on record objecting to outsourcing this vital role to a private provider with no County or public sector oversight. Typically, the county maintains control over the radio system and dispatching computers and may utilize a private vendor to perform dispatching tasks. Under the current bid provided by AMR, there is no ability by the county to control costs, manage the system, or perform other administrative duties.

In reviewing the AMR proposal, there have been significant changes from AMR's signed letter of intent with the City of Lodi and what has been proposed to the County. For example, in an April 20, 2005, memo from Lou Meyer AMR vice-president, AMR stated their willingness to pay to the City \$18,829 per first responder engine. This amount will offset EMS costs by \$94,145 per year. In addition, the fire department was to assure three scholarships for paramedic training per year. The AMR proposal before the Board of Supervisors offers a reduction in dispatch charges to be used toward EMS costs. The cost reduction can only be realized by fragmenting the regional dispatch system and out sourcing our current agreements with the City of Stockton. The paramedic scholarships are now offered county-wide rather than Lodi specific. The City of Tracy is experiencing similar problems with the AMR bid.

The Priority One bid reimburses the fire department \$117,150 for first response in the first year of the contract and grows to \$125,125 in year three. In addition, 6 ambulances will be stationed in Lodi, 3 ambulances will be 24 hour vehicles, 2 ambulances will be 10 hour vehicles, 1 ambulance will operate an 8 hour day, and 1 supervisor vehicle. In discussions with Michael Parker, he stated he is looking for a 40,000 square foot building to house his operations including fleet maintenance.

It is my intention to address these two issues at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. I believe it is important that the City of Lodi be on record regarding these issues.